

IN THE CLAIMS:

- ✓ Please cancel pending claims 1-15 (Substitute Sheet) without prejudice or disclaimer.
- ✓ Please add new claims 15-34 to the Application as follows.

16. A sound-absorbing article which is one of a lining or a shaped element and which has a sound absorptive effect over a broad frequency range when positioned proximate a reverberant wall, the sound-absorbing article comprising:

at least one microperforated sheet absorber which has microperforations defined therein having at least one hole diameter ranging from 0.05 mm to 2 mm, which has at least one interhole distance ranging from 1 mm to 20 mm, and which has a proportion of hole area ranging from 0.2 to 4%, based on surface area of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber; and

at least one absorber which is at least one of a foam absorber and a non-woven absorber and which is positioned at a preselected spatial distance from a reverberant wall.

17. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the sound-absorbing article is incorporated into a means for transportation as a composite article selected from the group consisting of wheel housings, hoods, hood linings, engine encapsulations, heat transfer plates, vehicle shields, transmission tunnel linings, dashboards, vehicle seats, seat backs, armrests, steering wheels, carpeting, roof linings, pillar linings, door linings, passenger compartment linings, luggage shelves, rear shelves, heat shields and trunk linings.

18. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one

microperforated sheet absorber has a proportion of hole area ranging from 0.3 to 2%, based on the surface area of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber.

19. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the microperforations have at least one hole diameter ranging from 0.1 mm to 0.8 mm and at least one interhole distance ranging from 1 mm to 3 mm.

20. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein a plurality of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber are included, each of the plurality having respectively different hole diameters and respectively different interhole distances.

21. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber has a proportion of hole area ranging from 2 to 20%, based on surface area of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber.

22. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the microperforations have a contiguous surface area ranging from 6 mm² to 40,000 mm².

23. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the microperforations have the same hole diameters, have the same open surface area, and have a distribution over the surface of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber which is one of (a) homogeneous or (b) concentrated on one of (1) one place or (2) several places of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber.

24. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber has a thickness ranging from 0.2 mm to 5 mm.

25. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber has a thickness ranging from 0.2 mm to 2 mm.

26. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber comprises a material selected from the group consisting of plastics, leather, cork, wood, rubber, textiles, glass, and metals.

27. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the sound-absorbing article is a shaped element and has a plurality of layers, wherein the plurality of layers are comprised of a composition which is one of the same or different.

28. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein at least three microperforated sheet absorbers are included and are positioned and maintained at a mutual distance from one another which is constant, respectively.

29. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein at least three microperforated sheet absorbers are included and are positioned and maintained at a mutual distance from one another which differs, respectively.

30. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the sound-absorbing article is a shaped element and has a thickness, an interhole distance, and hole diameters which vary over the shaped element.

31. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the sound-absorbing article is incorporated into a means for transportation as a composite article, and wherein the means for transportation is selected from the group consisting of a motor vehicle, a track-bound vehicle, a vessel, and an airplane.

32. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 31, wherein the means for transportation is a motor vehicle and is one of a passenger car, a truck, a bus, and a motor bike.

33. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 31, wherein the means for transportation is a track-bound vehicle and is one of a locomotive engine, a wagon, and a streetcar.

34. The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the sound-absorbing article has a sound absorptive effect over frequencies ranging at least from 500 Hz to 5000 Hz when positioned proximate a reverberant wall.